



Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy
Floor Statement
In Recognition of College of William & Mary
325th Charter Day
February 7, 2017

Madam Speaker,

As a member of the class of 2000, I rise to celebrate the 325th anniversary of the College of William & Mary.

William & Mary may be the second oldest college in America, but it is first in the hearts of its students and alumni.

The college educated many of our Nation's Founding Fathers and continues to take pride in producing graduates who enter public service, including four current Members of Congress.

Like it has for so many others, William & Mary changed my life. As the daughter of refugees from Vietnam who became residents of Virginia, I was the first woman in my family to attend college.

I arrived on campus feeling a little alone and more than a little nervous.

Yet, from the moment I walked through Wren Portico as a freshman to the moment I rang the Wren bell after my last class as a senior, William & Mary always made me feel that I was part of a close-knit community, a tribe, if you will, bound together by pride and tradition.

I learned so much during my 4 years on campus, creating friendships and making memories that have lasted a lifetime.

So, to William & Mary the institution and to those whose efforts have made it such a special place, I say, "Thank you, and happy birthday."